

S 99

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| Remarks: | | | | | |
| <p>Attached are proposed responses to two bills referred to us by the Senate Armed Services Committee. Could you please let us have any objections to the letters by the end of the month.</p> <p>25X1A</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Assistant Legislative Counsel</p> | | | | | |
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| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | | | DATE | |
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FORM NO. 1-67 237 Use previous editions

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DRAFT:DFM:cg (20 Feb 75)

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request for our recommendations on S. 99, which would establish a Joint Committee on National Security.

The proposed Joint Committee would be composed of twenty-five members, including the Senate and House leadership, appropriate committee leadership, and six other members of Congress as designated by the leadership. The function of the Joint Committee would be to study and review: (a) the activities, goals, and strategies of the National Security Council; (b) whether the foreign, domestic, and military policies of the United States are appropriately integrated in furtherance of national security; (c) whether the activities, charters, and organizations of U.S. intelligence agencies are consistent with national security requirements; and (d) Government classification and declassification practices, and to make recommendations regarding these practices, if warranted.

As you know, I have consistently taken the position that the manner in which congressional oversight of this Agency is exercised is a matter for Congress itself to determine. Therefore, I prefer not to comment on the merits of this type of Joint Committee, other than to note that its proposed review of CIA activities would appear to overlap the oversight now being performed by several committees in both Houses,

including the Subcommittee on Central Intelligence which you chair. Consistent with the responsibility imposed upon me by the National Security Act of 1947 and the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, I do want to urge that the Congress, in effecting any change in oversight, take the necessary steps to protect intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

W. E. Colby
Director